

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

18

April 6, 2004

**FROM: PATRICK J. MEAD, Interim Director**  
**Department of Public Works - Regional Parks Division**

**SUBJECT: Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 - Proposition 40, River Parkway Program**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt resolution approving application to the State Resources Agency for \$3.3 million of grant funds under the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 to assist with development of Colton Regional Park.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 40) was passed by voters in November 2002. A portion of these funds, which are administered by California State Resources Agency, are intended to provide financial assistance for the preservation of open spaces and protection of wildlife habitat.

The State has allocated \$10 million of Proposition 40 funds for the Santa Ana River under the River Parkway Program. San Bernardino County Regional Parks in partnership with Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District and the Orange County Department of Harbors, Beaches and Parks have agreed to divide these funds equally. The Department proposes to use San Bernardino County's share of these funds (\$3.3 million) to assist with the design and construction of Colton Regional Park.

On June 24, 2003, the Board approved the concept of a new County regional park in the City of Colton. This park will encompass approximately 150 acres on the north and south banks of the Santa Ana River, which will include a 30-acre habitat preserve, possible water filtration ponds, and walking trails with interpretive signage. In addition to protecting habitat and open space, this future park will provide recreational facilities and the opportunity to learn about the natural environment along the Santa Ana River.

The Department requests Board approval of this item to ensure the County's eligibility for the \$3.3 million of State-administered River Parkway monies. These funds will be used to construct the park entrance gate, public access roads, appropriate parking, all perimeter fencing, picnic shelters, landscaping materials, walking trails, informational kiosk, as well as the County's share for the preserve area. After the State has reviewed the Board resolution and related grant application, a contract to receive the grant funds will be sent to the County for the Board's approval. There is no local match associated with this grant. However the funds will be received on a reimbursable basis, thus requiring the County to initially fund the costs. The County will be reimbursed periodically as the project progresses.

The total cost for development of Colton Regional Park has been estimated at \$14.1 million. This cost includes land acquisition, a full Environmental Impact Report, master planning, design and construction of the project. In addition to the \$3.3 million of Proposition 40 - River Parkway funds, other funding is available through partnerships with/from The Wildlands Conservancy, the State Proposition 40 Per Capita Program, EPA Brownfields program, the Army Corps of Engineers, the City of Colton, and the East Valley Resource Conservation District. Total funding identified for this project, including the \$3.3 million of River Parkway funds, is \$10.3 million.

Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors

18

The remaining \$3.8 million of funding has not been identified and will be sought by the City of Colton and County Regional Parks in the future.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY OTHERS:** This item has been approved as to legal form by County Counsel (Fiona Luke, Deputy County Counsel, 387-5474) on March 25, 2004 and reviewed by the County Administrative Office (Tom Forster, Administrative Analyst, 387-4635) on March 29, 2004.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** There is no financial impact from approving this resolution and application for grant funds. All future items to accept the \$3.3 million in grant funds will be presented to the Board for its consideration and approval in accordance with County Policy.

**COST REDUCTION REVIEW:** The County Administrative Office has reviewed this item and concurs with the Department's recommendation because the use of these grant funds will help to build the County's first new regional park facility in over 23 years. This project will provide a dense urban neighborhood that is socio and economically disadvantaged with a safe, clean, and accessible park offering both active and passive recreation (picnicking, fishing and hiking) along the Santa Ana River.

**SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S):** 5<sup>th</sup>

**PRESENTER:** Thomas A. Potter, Chief of Regional Parks, 387-2340